

REMARKS

Initially, applicants advise the Examiner that copending application 09/790,093 has lapsed through failure to respond and is abandoned.

Applicants believe Lee (US 5691069) and Valint (US 5135297) are the only references cited against claim 1.

Lee discloses and claims an emulsion polymer having three components: (i) a low surface energy monomer, such as, reactive silicone, reactive fluorocarbons, and reactive fatty acid esters, with vinyl acrylic or methacrylic functionality; (ii) an alkyl acrylate; and (iii) hard monomers, which when homopolymerized have a glass transition temperature greater than about 25°C. Applicants claims as now amended require only two components to achieve the release characteristics alleged by Lee. Consequently, Lee neither anticipates nor makes obvious applicants' invention.

Valint discloses and claims a method of modifying the surface of a polymeric object, in this case a contact lens, so that it releases from the former or mold for the contact lens. This modification is accomplished by immersing the lens in an aqueous dispersion of a polymerizable surfactant, a cross-linking agent, and a free radical initiator and exposing the immersion to uv light to form a permanent, cross-linked surface coating on the object. The polymerizable surfactant is prepared from a hydrophobic monomer and a hydrophilic monomer in the presence of a functional chain transfer agent. The use of the hydrophobic and hydrophilic monomers appears to be the point of similarity seen by the Examiner; however, this polymer is further reacted with a cross-linking agent and then exposed to uv light. There is nothing in Valint which anticipates or

teaches the mold release composition of the instant application, a composition less complex than what is disclosed in ValInt.

For these reasons, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove the rejections and allow this application.

end of remarks

PTO/SB/97 05-00)

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must identify each submitted paper.In re Application: Li et. al.
Application Number: 09/882,222Group Art: 1773
Filed: 15 June 2001

Examiner: Falasco, Louis V.

For: MOLD RELEASE AND ANTI-BLOCKING COATING FOR POWDER-FREE
NATURAL OR SYNTHETIC RUBBER ARTICLES

Enclosed are: Amendment - 5 pages

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